

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
January 2024
Bulletin Board

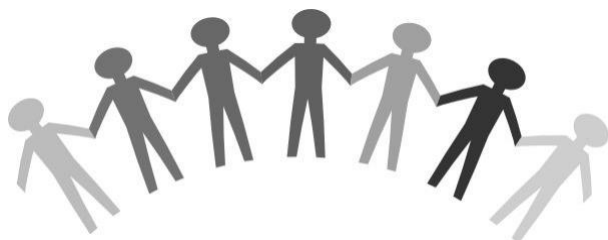


Sun., Jan. 7	Service: <i>Taking a Leap of Faith</i> , Rev. Jeanne Montclair
Thu., Jan. 11	UU Study Group, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
Sun., Jan. 14	Sharing Circle: <i>Review of Core Beliefs</i>
Tue., Jan. 16	UCOT Women's Lunch, 12:15 p.m., Martyrs
Wed., Jan. 17	UCOT Men's Group, 4:00 p.m.
Sun., Jan. 21	Service: <i>At the Crossroads</i> , Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Thu., Jan. 25	UCOT Book Group, 10:00 a.m., SOMOS
Sun., Jan. 28	2024 UCOT Annual Meeting

Poison Control
Rev. Munro Sickafoose

These days, the American political scene doesn't seem too interested in solutions and is barely interested in governing. Much of the left and the right are driven by grievance, anger, and resentment. Past injustices – both real and imagined – are endlessly revisited, but any resolution must be rejected as inadequate simply because it comes from the other side. Things have descended into rank tribalism, and neither side has any coherent political philosophy anymore. They just want to beat the other side, and the heck with whether that makes sense or serves the American people. It seems pretty obvious that tribalism isn't suited to governing a large and diverse society. Governing involves negotiation and compromise, and tribalism sees those things as failings. Ultimately, I think this period of extreme tribalism will pass, but will have done a great deal of damage before it does.

Of more concern are the spiritual poisons of anger and resentment that are infecting not just our politics, but our social fabric as well. These poisons eat away at a couple of very important things: our relationships with each other as citizens is one, and the other is our hearts and souls. If we are angry and resentful, we are blind to the humanity of the other, and it diminishes our own humanity as well. Anger and resentment lead only to more anger and resentment. When we feel that in our hearts, we need to shift to empathy and compassion. When we see it in our politics, we need to call it out and stop supporting those who use it – be they individuals or parties or movements.



Taking a Leap of Faith
Rev. Jeanne Montclair
Sunday, January 7, 11 a.m.

It takes courage to leave the brokenness behind. To risk being open hearted and minded; welcoming and optimistic. To believe that something good, something beautiful, will come, and that the good and beautiful might even come from us. Let's welcome the new year with new vision.

At the Crossroads
Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Sunday, January 21, 11 a.m.

2024 is looking to be a critical year on many fronts. We're at the crossroads of so many different paths and choices. Some of them will get made for us. Some we might get to choose. A look at the year ahead.



2024 UCOT Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 28, 11 a.m.

On January 28, 2024, the Unitarian Congregation of Taos will hold its annual meeting at 11 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge. This is our most important business meeting of the year, where we conduct the key business items of the Congregation: a review of 2023, election of Board members, 2024 budget approval, and more. There will also be a time for members to ask questions of and make suggestions to the Board. Please join us. Your presence and participation are vital to the ongoing processes of UCOT self-governance.

SHARING CIRCLES

Review of Core Beliefs

January 14, 11 a.m.

In the big world, we can observe people with apparently great skillsets accomplishing little in life. In others, we see people accomplishing great things in spite of possessing no apparent skillsets. For example, some people may decide that because they only obtained (fill in the blank) years of education that they cannot achieve great things, so they do not try at all. On the other hand you see high school and college dropouts achieve momentous things. Locally, it is written that Kit Carson could neither read nor write. Yet clearly he accomplished many things and became famous in the process.

Core Beliefs can help propel one forward. Or they can hold one back. A pretty well-known motivator named Lou Tice said the first step to setting proper goals is to analyze your Core Beliefs. If a belief has no good foundation and is holding you back, discard that belief. After that exercise, you will be ready to start setting your life goals.

Do you have a Core Belief that enabled you to achieve big goals? Or not? Can you share those experiences with us?

UCOT Women's Lunch

January 16, 12:15 p.m.

Third Tuesday Monthly

Martyrs Steakhouse

[RSVP here](#)

The UCOT Women's Lunch will meet at Martyrs on Tuesday, January 16, at 12:15 p.m. in their separate back meeting space to enjoy a meal and conversation with UCOT members and their friends. Join us as we enjoy delicious food and the company of other amazing women. Kindly RSVP to Barbara Martinez, bsmithmtz@outlook.com by 10:00 a.m. on January 16.

UCOT Men's Group

January 17, 4:00 p.m.

Third Wednesday Monthly

The UU Men's Group will meet in person on Wednesday, January 17, at 4:00 p.m. Contact Chuck Fawns charles.fawns@gmail.com for location.

A New UU Study Group Starts Jan. 11

Second Thursday Monthly

Richard Rubin has initiated a monthly study group to go deeper into the texts written by Unitarians, including Rev. Gary Kowalski's *Revolutionary Spirits* and *Blessings of the Animals*, along with other UU books from the library of Sara Sautter. The idea germinated during Sara's UU 101 class. If, like Richard, you are curious and interested in learning more about this rather revolutionary faith, you can join him and others at the SOMOS salon, which is reserved for the second Thursday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to noon, starting January 11. "No rules, no demands; come explore UU books," says Richard. For more information, you can email rlrubin46@gmail.com.

Music Committee News

Gael Minton

Looking back at a year of great classical music in Taos, many would agree that the solo piano recital by Gleb Ivanov, from NYC via Russia, here for his annual holiday Taos Chamber Music Group concerts, featuring Beethoven's *Waldstein Sonata #21 Opus 53* aka *L'Aurora* (the Dawn), was a highlight.

Whether you are familiar with this work or are new to it, enjoy this Introduction to Beethoven *Ever Thine, Ever Mine, Ever Ours* for 250 years to [an extraordinary performance](#) (2020) by a Curtis Institute of Music student, Ying Li.

Looking ahead to 2024, I have been listening to the winter birds around our small farm. Especially, my favorite flickers and our outrageous magpies already busying around their perennial nest in the piñon outside our kitchen window.

I recommend this daily two-minute NPR program [BirdNote](#) and [Bird Song Sleuth](#).

Music is a language without words as is bird song/talk.



Two ravens talking (photo Ty Minton)

Rev. Sickafoose Takes a Sabbatical

Dear Members and Friends of UCOT,
Our associate minister of the last six years, Rev. Munro Sickafoose, will be going on sabbatical after his service on January 21. He plans to return in September 2024 and will resume providing services once a month. In the meantime, we wish him well in his endeavors!

Services are currently planned out through the end of March, provided by our own Rev. Jeanne Montclair, as well as Rev. Christine Robinson from Albuquerque. In addition, Joe Mazza will lead a service on the topic "Conscious Aging" in March. The schedule can be accessed on our website here: uutaos.org/calendar. Planning efforts are continuing to fill in the service Sundays for the rest of the year.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have.

— [Emily Gillispie](#), UCOT Board President

Ministerial Search Committee Formed A Note from Emily Gillispie, UCOT Board President

As we look ahead to 2024, one of the Board's top priorities is to find, interview, vet, and potentially hire a new part-time UU minister. To that end, we have formed a Ministerial Search Committee.

I've been in touch with the Rev. Diana Davies, a UU minister retiring from the First Unitarian Church of Oklahoma City, who is moving to Taos in March. She's expressed interest in providing sermons and pastoral care for us.

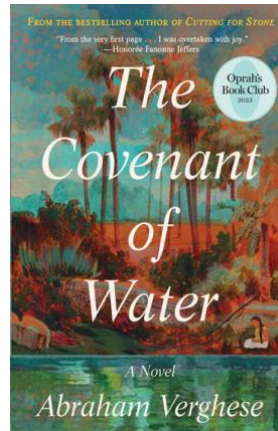
While the Ministerial Search Committee is researching this possibility, I'd like to invite the congregation to watch one of her sermons at [this link](#). You can also read the announcement of her plan to move to Taos [here](#).

Please let me know of any questions or feedback you may have.

Coffee Sign Up

After worship coffee is a great way for newcomers to meet UCOT folks and for UCOT folks to visit with each other. Can you help once or twice in the next several months? Sign up [here](#) with Sign Up Genius. "How To" instructions are [here](#), embedded in the Sign Up. It takes about 20 minutes to set up and brew.

UCOT Book Group January 25, 10:00 a.m., SOMOS Fourth Thursday Monthly



We will meet earlier this month (10:00 instead of 10:30) to provide time to select upcoming books. Gael Minton sbfarm03@gmail.com will be the contact this month while Sara is away.

Spanning the years 1900 to 1977, *The Covenant of Water* is set in Kerala, on South India's Malabar Coast, and follows three generations of a family. At the turn of the century, a twelve-year-old girl from Kerala's long-existing Christian community, grieving the death of her father, is sent by boat to her wedding, where she will meet her forty-year-old husband for the first time.

A shimmering evocation of a bygone India and of the passage of time itself, *The Covenant of Water* is a hymn to progress in medicine and to human understanding, as well as a humbling testament to the difficulties undergone by past generations for the sake of those alive today. It is one of the most masterful literary novels published in recent years.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 12 Elaine Taylor
- 13 Meredee Vaughn